

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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R 280214Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9447

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 15181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, RP

SUBJECT: OSMENA/LOPEZ

1. MRS. SERGE OSMENA CALLED ON POLITICAL COUNSELOR DECEMBER 27 TO EXPRESS HER THANKS AND THAT OF LOPEZES FOR INTEREST AND SUPPORT SHOWN BY U.S. SENATE (SHE REFERRED ESPECIALLY TO SENATORS CRANSTON AND BAYH), DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND EMBASSY IN PLIGHT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS INCLUDING HER HUSBAND AND EUGENIO LOPEZ. AFTER DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE WHICH SHE HAD CAREFULLY WRITTEN DOWN ON PIECE OF PAPER, SHE ASKED (A) WHETHER "SENATE AMENDMENT 2003 TO FOREIGN AID BILL (SHE THOUGHT) " HAD PASSED: (B) WHO CHAIRMAN WAS OF HFRC. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF FATE OF SENATE AMENDMENT, WHICH PRESUMABLY RELATES TO POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2. IN ENSUING CONVERSATION, SHE SAID HER HUSBAND REMAINS UNDER HEAVY GUARD AT VETERANS HOSPITAL. THERE IS NO SIGN OF HIS BEING RELEASED TO HOUSE ARREST. HE HAS NOT, SHE SAYS, BEEN ADVISED AS TO WHETHER AND/OR WHEN THERE WILL BE TRIAL; SHE CLEARLY BEGINNING TO ASSUME THERE WILL NOT BE ANY TRIAL AND THAT HER HUSBAND WILL BE DETAINED INDEFINITELY. SHE SAID FURTHER THAT MARCOS HAD SAID HE DID NOT WANT LOTS OF PRESS COVERAGE AT TRIAL. MOREOVER, HE WOULD NOT PERMIT TANDA AND DIOKNO TO DEFEND OSMENA/LOPEZ (TANADA HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO SEE OSMENA/LOPEZ SINCE THEIR
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TRANSFER TO THE HOSPITAL). SHE CONCLUDED THAT MARCOS HAD

OBVIOUSLY BROKEN AGREEMENT HE HAD NEGOTIATED THROUGH ENRILE ON HANDLING OSMENA/LOPEZ.

3. COMMENT: WE ASSUME HER CALL ON EMBASSY INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED PRESSURE ON MARCOS TO TRY OR RELEASE OSMENA/LOPEZ.

4. HER REMARKS ROUGHLY PARALLEL COMMENT WE HAD FROM LOPEZ SOURCE FEW DAYS AGO THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD APPOINT DEFENSE AND WOULD HOLD TRIAL IN CAMERA. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE FINAL DECISION ON HOW TO HANDLE TRIAL OF OSMENA/LOPEZ. COMMENTS TO DATE WOULD SUGGEST EXTREME GOVERNMENT NERVOUSNESS ABOUT POSSIBLE ADVERSE PRESS COMMENT ON CONDUCT OF TRIAL.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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